



Q and A Alan Hearse

Member No. 111

Questions; Graham Franklin

Answers: Alan Hearse

Interview

G: Hi Alan. You joined the club in the first year of the Club and are member number 111. Do you remember much of the early days of the club?

A: I remember the dirt motorkhana's in a paddock at Elizabeth and racing against people like Peter Norris, Dave Burton, Phil Smart and Brian Walker in their Jaguars. Hell - it was great.

And if there were no club events on we used to get together on the weekends at someone's place. I lived at Tennyson, right on the beach and we used to have parties there. If people were too intoxicated to drive their Jaguars, they used to sleep on the beach. It was a lot of fun.

G: Yes, I remember. Lucky, we didn't die from alcoholic poisoning.

G: What was your first car?

A: It was a 1948 Ford V8 side-valve with surfboard racks. On one trip it blew a head gasket at Crystal Brook and I just left it there.

G: Can you remember your first encounter with a Jaguar?

A: My mate had a white Mark 1 Jaguar and my dad had a Mark VII, and because dad had a car yard, different model Jaguars passed through.

But when I saw an E-Type for the first time I was just captivated and entranced by them. I mean, what else was around then - Holden EK's and XK Ford Falcons. I just had to have one.

G: So, you bought a Jaguar.

My first one was a Mark II 2.4 litre and then I bought a Gold Series 1 1965 4.2 litre FHC that reportedly belonged to Miss Australia, and Miss World, Penny Plumber.



Alan's E-Type (S2) at the Adelaide F1 drivers parade along with the factory XJ13



Interview - Alan Hearse (cont)

G: You had that car in 1973 when you joined the club. I remember that car, it had triple Weber's on it.

Yes, it was at my dad's house where I was doing some work on it and someone stole the triple SU's. So, I put Weber's on it. It was a great car.

G: Then you got the red E-Type roadster?

A: Yes, I still have that. I love roadsters.

G: So, what have you been up to over the past 50 years of the club?

A: Long story. I studied and went to Canberra working on computers for the Commonwealth. The computer occupied 2 entire floors and probably had less capacity than my mobile phone has now. It wasn't for me so I came back to Adelaide and worked for my dad in his car yard that I now own.

I used to go over to Sydney and buy MGB's for \$1,000 and bring them back and sell them in Adelaide for \$1,500.

Apart from the car yard I used to run licensed alcohol double decker pub, club and nightclub tours. Also, ladies night outs, bucks parties, wine tours etc. It was full on and quite stressful dealing with drunken patrons.

I also used to run Snow Ski Tours. That was seasonal work.

As an aside, I have also participated in Dragon Boat Racing for the last 30 years. It helps to keep me fit.

G: Are you still running the double decker's?

A: No. COVID-19 put an end to it. I sold two of the busses and have the other one up for sale. Its good because I can spend more time with the car yard now as it was a bit chaotic trying to run both.

G: Have you been a member of any other Car Clubs?

A: Yes. The Austin Healey Owners Club of SA. It formed just a few years before the JDCSA. I am still a member and I still have a Healey roadster that I drive in summer. Peter Norris was also into Healey's and a member until the dreaded cancer took him prematurely.

G: Yes early 50's.

G: Do you have any funny motoring or club experience?

A: Remember I said I had friend who had a white Mark 1. It was in 1966 and we were down at Tennyson on Military Road. Not many houses around then, mainly sand hills.

Anyway, we were playing with the carburettors and my friend offered me a drive and I got up to about 100mph and then pulled up to have another look at the carbies. The next thing this white Valiant came screaming up with its brakes locked with a person inside holding up a sign "Police". An unmarked police car. Coped a fine and lost my licence for a while, but nothing really. The police and courts were pretty lenient in those days.

G: Of all the Jaguars you have owned, which was your favourite? I guess the red E-Type roadster?

No, the Gold FHC. It was my first E-Type, and as I said, I was just entranced with it.

G: A fascinating story Alan, anything else you would like to add?

A. No that's all.

G. Thank you Alan very much for your time and photographs.

